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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Mark
COUNTRY Germany/Russian Zone

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FID
92

SUBJECT Explosions, Production Difficulties
at the Buna-Werke in Schkopau

DATE

INFO.

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PAGES

ORIGIN

SUPPLEMENT

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1. On 23 March 1947 a magazine exploded in the Buna-Werke at Schkopau (D91) and was completely destroyed. Personnel sustained no injuries, production was not notably hampered, and no arrests were made. It is believed that the blast was caused by some (undescribed) material hidden in the magazine by Oberingenieur Dorrer, director of the Stahlbauwerke, before he fled to the west.
2. On 29 March, repair work on the destroyed acetylene installation was proceeding as rapidly as possible. Parts of a similar magazine, which had been dismantled, were returned to the plant and facilitated the rebuilding.
3. During the night of 1-2 April, the entire industrial gasoline installation in the Buna-Werke, containing several million liters, exploded.
4. During the afternoon of 2 April, another explosion destroyed the central electrical station for the charging of the carbide ovens. No one was injured by the blasts of 1-2 April, but production was halted. Suspecting sabotage, the Russians instituted an investigation, which yielded no results.
5. As of 17 April, the three damaged installations were being energetically repaired. Materials were being supplied by the Eisenhüttenwerk Thale. Production had been slowed down, however, and only fifteen complete sets of truck tires (four tires) were being turned out daily in contrast to the former production of 250 sets.
6. A model of the "Karbidhochstrombahn", originally scheduled to be ready for shipment to Russia on 18 January, had not been finished up to 17 April. On the latter date, the Russians gave a final extension of fourteen days for the completion of this project.
7. During this same period, a large fire in the limestone quarry Rübeländer Kalkwerken at Kübeland (D15) halted deliveries of lime to the Buna-Werke.

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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